

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MJZ

Support person present: No

Other persons present: Hannah Beaumont, Levy and McRae, Solicitors, Glasgow

1. My name is MJZ. My religious name was Brother MJZ. In the Rome archives, when you made your profession, it was recorded that MJZ would now be known as Brother MJZ. The MJZ part was only referred to again if you had to sign something, like signing your profession. I was never known as Brother MJZ. The other Brothers didn't know my name was MJZ. We only knew each other by our religious names. My date of birth is MJZ 1930. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I was born and educated in Fiji. In 1947, when I was seventeen years old, I left home and worked for the Americans for a short time. It was wartime. Whilst I was away, Brother Peter, from St Columba's School in Fiji, at which I was a pupil, told my mother that I had passed my Cambridge Junior school exam. All the children in the tropics sat the Cambridge Junior and then the Cambridge Senior exams.
3. Brother Peter wanted to know what I was going to do. My mother said to Brother Peter I had always expressed a wish to join the Brothers so, in 1947, I returned to St Columba's School to finish the school year. In 1948, I joined the Juniorate of the Marist Brothers, in Auckland, New Zealand. In the Juniorate, you do your high school studies

and get your matriculation. In 1949, when I was nineteen years old, I joined the Noviciate, where the proper training to be a Marist Brother starts.

4. I am not sure of the dates on which the events I now speak about occurred. The dates given are approximate.

Training and life as a Marist Brother in New Zealand and Fiji

5. In 1948, when I went to New Zealand to do my training as a Marist Brother, I was eighteen years old. You usually did four years training at the secondary school, in the Juniorate. By the time I went to New Zealand, I was considered too old to stay at the secondary school. They were all young kids at the secondary school, thirteen and fourteen years old.
6. Instead, I did eighteen months religious training in the South Island and twelve months teacher training in Auckland. We had a New Zealand Teacher's 'C' Certificate. The Marist Brothers had their own training college. We had to sit twelve subjects. We did practically every subject. If you went to the state Teacher Training College, you only did three subjects. Once you finished teacher training, you went out to the schools. You went to wherever you were sent. I went to The Marist Brothers Vermont Street, Ponsonby, Auckland. You also did your University course. I became a Marist Brother in 1950, when I was twenty years old. I was in New Zealand for seven years, until about 1954, when I was about 24 years old.
7. In New Zealand, in my first year of teaching in around 1950, at The Marist Brothers Vermont Street, I heard two boys who were out playing. One asked the other what Brother MJZ was like. The other said Doctor Jekyll and Hyde. The boy said, "If you do your job, he is terrific, if you don't your job, mmm." I always told the kids, we can be friends, if you do your work. I said their parents paid a lot of money for them to come to the school and it was my job to see that they did their work.

8. I returned to Fiji to teach in 1954. I asked to go to a Mission School. I taught in Fiji for two years. The school was known as the Marist Brothers in Wairiki. It was a mission station. The Brothers did the teaching and the priests looked after the children. Around 1956, I was transferred to Samoa. I stayed in Samoa for six years, until around 1962. In 1962, I went back to teach in Fiji. I was about 32 years old. I was SNR of a big Marist school called The Marist Brothers, Suva Street. There were over seven hundred kids. The school taught children from age six to age fourteen. I taught all subjects.
9. I became Master of Discipline, as SNR The teachers weren't allowed to use the cane or the tawse. They would send the kids up to me, as a last resort. It had to be a very grave reason. Something grave would be making fun of the convent girls when the boys saw them on the road, calling them names or something. I used the cane on about six occasions. I gave six strokes of the cane if it was a really nasty incident that needed discipline, something more than annoying the convent school girls, like stealing or skipping school. I had to because I was the Master of Discipline. I thought to myself I better get out of that job. I would soon be like my father, who had physically disciplined me.
10. Once, I saw two boys in town who should have been in school. I told them to go back to school. I didn't discipline those children. They had got the fright of their lives when they saw me. The last person they expected to see, was me.
11. I had no particular training in dealing with difficult children. In our part of the world, Fiji and Samoa, we didn't have any difficult children. The kids would remind you on a Friday that you hadn't given them their homework. The Brothers who came from New Zealand to teach in the islands said they never wanted to go back to New Zealand. The kids in the islands were so eager to learn.
12. In Fiji, when the younger boys were being bullied by the older boys, we would get the older boys to 'run the gauntlet' in the classroom. The younger boys would stand in a row. They would hit the older ones on the shin with a ruler, as the older boys ran down the line. The line was about eight feet long. I met a group of boys, who I had taught in

Fiji many years before, at a get-together in Los Angeles. One of them said to me, "You're lucky you're not teaching anymore, if you did that in the States you'd be in trouble."

13. The Marist Brothers have a universal rule book and constitution for every Marist Brother, from the minute you enter the Order until the minute you die, this is what you have to do. It's about everything, your behaviour as a Marist Brother and as a teacher. The rules are written down in a book. One of the rules is, no touching of kids.
14. Around 1974, I had been teaching in Fiji for about twelve years when I left to go to the United Kingdom. I was in my mid-forties.

Coming to the United Kingdom

15. Around 1974 I came to the United Kingdom as I had decided to leave the Marist Brothers and go into a closed Order. I loved the Marist Brothers Order. I loved the teaching, it was wonderful. However, I was also out, playing bowls and playing the piano for the dancers. I was missing prayers sometimes. Every evening at night prayers, we spent half an hour on what we call 'Examination of Conscience'. You think about whether you have worked to the rules and how you have treated the children. I realised, through Examination of Conscience, that I couldn't carry on living that lifestyle, of being out playing bowls and playing the piano, and still be a Marist Brother. I had decided to give my life to God. I thought I must either give my life to God properly or leave.
16. In 1974, I decided to go into a closed Order of Anglican Benedictines, formerly of Caldey Island, in England. The Order was based in Gloucester. The Order was not connected to the Marist Brothers. I stayed with the Order for one year, until around 1975. The night before I was to make my final solemn profession to the Anglican Benedictines, I was told the Abbot wanted to make me the Cellarer. The Cellarer looked after the commercial side of the Abbey. That involved being out of the Abbey

and having lunches. I was trying to get away from all that. I decided to go back to the Marist Brothers.

17. The Marist Brothers in the United Kingdom had a new Provincial Superior, Brother John Ogilvy. I got in touch with him and he said that I should come to Marist Brothers in the United Kingdom. That is how I joined the Marist Brothers here, in around 1976. The first place I was sent to was St Joseph's College, Dumfries. I was around 46 years old.

St Joseph's College, Dumfries

18. St Joseph's College in Dumfries was in a huge building. It was a boarding establishment. I had never taught in a boarding school. The school was quite separate from the dormitories. There was a whole building of dormitories. I was on the third floor. There were two or three hundred boys at the school. It was all boys. There were two years of primary school. The rest were in senior school. The boys were aged from ten years until they sat the university entrance exams. The boys came from all over. There were English boys. The boys were placed at school by their parents.
19. St Joseph's wasn't the same as Marist Brothers Vermont Street, in New Zealand. In New Zealand, the Brothers were a family. In St Joseph's, the Brothers had little groups. I found it very hard. I couldn't understand the Brothers when they spoke. I found out I had a nickname amongst the children, MJZ [REDACTED] I thought it was funny, I guess it was true, I was black with a white top.

Structure of St Joseph's College

20. When I arrived at St Joseph's, around 1976, the Brother SNR [REDACTED] was an English man. I can't remember his name. He was just finishing off. Brother MFY [REDACTED]. I only knew two of the Brothers, Brother MFY [REDACTED] and Brother Douglas. I'd see the other Brothers at Mass in the morning. There seemed to be so many of them. When you are

new to a place, they all seem to look alike. There were some nice Brothers I got to know. After a while, I'd steer clear because I couldn't remember their names. That would be an insult.

21. Sixteen or eighteen of the Brothers were teaching and had classes. There were quite a few lay teachers. There was one Brother, he had an Irish name that I can't remember. I thought he was an alcoholic. I knew, you just had to look at him. The Brother would sit in the kitchen. His eyes were red. I knew he didn't teach. I always steered clear of him. I felt sorry for him. I think he's now dead. He was more to be pitied. I was scared and uncomfortable in his presence. I knew of alcoholics in the family, in Fiji and New Zealand, they were unpredictable.

My Role at St Joseph's College

22. I was supposed to teach at St Joseph's. I only taught for about four days. I couldn't teach at St Joseph's because I didn't have a Scottish University degree. The lay teachers found out and I was told I couldn't teach. I didn't want to get a Scottish degree. I didn't have any ongoing training, I wasn't there long enough.
23. Then, I was to help with the dormitory. My role was to look after the kids. It was a hard job which I hated. I took it over from the Brother who had it before me. I can't remember his name. Brother Douglas did the teaching and we both looked after the dormitory. Brother Douglas' family name was Douglas Welsh. There were 20 or 24 beds in the dormitory which Brother Douglas and I supervised. We had our separate rooms. There was a little passage to the rooms, with a door which opened into the dormitory. We could hear what was going on.
24. Brother MFY called me up one day and said he had to ask me to take charge of the dormitory. He was moving Brother Douglas somewhere. I'd only been at St Joseph's for about two weeks. They were running short of Brothers, so no other Brother came in to stay in that dormitory with me.

25. The boys, in the dormitory I was in charge of, were teenagers. They were aged fourteen onwards. The boys went to school after breakfast. I didn't see the boys again until after school. I remember the year I was at the school, I watched tennis at Wimbledon whilst the boys were away. Bjorn Borg won for the first time, it was 1976. At St Joseph's, I didn't supervise the boys after school for games. I supervised the boys when they came up to the dormitory to go to bed. That didn't take long at all. The boys washed, got into their pyjamas and the lights went out. The boys only came into the dormitory at other times if they had to, for instance if they had left something behind that they needed.
26. When the lay teacher who took the rugby found out I had come from New Zealand, he asked if I would coach rugby. I said, "No, thank you." He was the only lay teacher I came across. I can't remember his name.
27. I wasn't teaching at the school long enough to be given a set of school rules. I wasn't given a set of school rules when I arrived. The Brothers didn't know how long I was going to be there. Everyone knew certain rules, such as the boys not being allowed to smoke. In Fiji, if I was to be at a school permanently, usually the Brother you took over from would tell you what was to be done, how things were done at the school and find out if you needed any help.
28. You can tell some kids automatically dislike you. They do what I did, they look as I did, when I was a child. You had that feeling. If a child didn't like me, I carried on with what I had to do. It was a challenge to me, to see if I could win them over. If you win them over and appeal to their good nature, there's no such thing as a bad kid. Towards the end, when I was going, some of them turned out to be really nice kids.

Children at St Joseph's College

29. I wasn't given any information about the boys in the dormitory I took over. When I went to the school, Brother Douglas was there too, so he knew everything. I didn't worry about that. I just saw that the boys behaved themselves.

30. One of the boys who was in my dormitory, whose parents who were stationed abroad, turned out a really nice boy. There were some lovely kids at St Joseph's. There was a family of three boys. Anyone who saw them would think they came from a wonderful family, they were so loving. They looked after each other. They had lost their father.
31. The Brothers told me to be careful of an American boy. Evidently, he caused all sorts of trouble. He always did the opposite of what was supposed to be done.

Routine at St Joseph's College

Mornings and Bedtime

32. The children got up at about 7:00 am. The bell would go. I would walk up and down the dormitory. They'd all get up and go into the showers. Then they'd get dressed.
33. The boys would go down to breakfast. I went down too. You watched over the ones who were in your dormitory, at the table. After breakfast, the boys went back to the dormitory and made their beds. After that, they could go out and kick a ball around until the bell went for school to start.
34. After school, the boys had study periods in their classrooms. I didn't have anything to do with that. The boys went to bed between 8:30 pm and 9:00 pm. At lights out, I walked in-between the beds to make sure nothing was going on. I wouldn't be surprised if the boys brought cans of soft drinks, coke, or whatnot into the dormitory. I never saw them with the cans but I would see the squashed up cans under the bed. At night I walked around the dormitory with a torch, to make sure there was no-one eating or talking.

Leisure time

35. The children stayed at school at the weekends. Some of their parents lived miles away.

Healthcare

36. If a boy got sick, there was always the infirmary. I don't know if the infirmary was in the school grounds or not. I never actually saw the infirmary. I asked someone what happened when the boys got sick and I was told about the infirmary. I think there was a nurse.

Chores

37. The dormitory was a mess when I arrived. The boys were messy. There were cans of soft drinks under the beds. I'd never seen anything like it. I couldn't understand how anyone in charge of the dormitory could let it get in such a proper mess. I used to say that cleanliness is next to godliness. When I saw the mess, the thought occurred to me that these kids must come from some poor sort of family, not financially, just that they weren't taught anything. It was disrespectful to the ladies who cleaned the dormitory.
38. I said to Brother Douglas that the dormitory being in a mess must have been going on for some time, and I asked him who I should report it to. He tried to explain but I couldn't understand him. He was talking a different language as far as I was concerned. I didn't report it, I had only just come to St Joseph's and I didn't want to make a fuss.
39. I was disliked because I said to the boys that they were not going out until they cleaned up the dormitory. When I saw the squashed up cans under the beds, the boys would say they had paid fees, so they could do that. I would ask them if they would do that to their mother, didn't they have any pride. I don't know where they got the cans from. That only continued for about a week.
40. I would tell the boys to make their beds. I would inspect the beds every morning. I made every boy stand by their bed until I said, okay, they could go off. I said what was

wrong with the bed and had a look under the bed. Very soon, the boys knew what was expected of them and they did it.

41. Cleaners cleaned the dormitories and word soon got around to the cleaners that they should come up to that dormitory and see the difference. I asked the kids whether they felt better coming into a nice place, that was clean. When I left, someone told me the lay staff said it was paradise when I was at St Joseph's and now they had gone back to the mess.

Visits / Inspections

42. I wasn't aware of any inspections of the school. Once I wasn't teaching, I didn't bother with the school. I didn't go anywhere near the school.
43. Parents visited on Founders Day. Parents would come to school to bring the kids home after the holidays. Once, there was a parents' evening or party going on and I heard the boys saying Brother ^{MFT} would be carried out. I wondered what they meant. The parent-teacher's party was a real booze up for some of them. When the boys said Brother ^{MFT} would be carried out, it was because he couldn't walk down the stairs.
44. The parents would come to school. They would bring cases of whisky and whatnot as a present to the Brothers, towards the end of the year. I asked Brother John Ogilvy why, when Scots people open a bottle of whisky, do they have to drink the whole lot? In New Zealand we only got whisky when it was Christmas. It was just a teaspoonful.

Discipline

45. The boys took one look at me and thought to themselves that they'd better be on their best behaviour. The boys knew I was strict but fair. Once the boys got to know me, and to know what I expected of them, there were no more problems with dirt and what not. After a few months, we had a wonderful rapport. Some of the kids were so unruly, it was feeding out. There were some nice kids there. It only takes a few to see somebody getting away with it and they think, why not?

46. If I found the boys were misbehaving, it was up to me to tell the SNR Brother MFY. I never did. The misbehaviour was never that grave for me to tell Brother MFY. I dealt with it myself. It was a challenge to me. I would have a little chat with them. I would ask them if they'd do that if their father or mother was around. I thought Brother MFY was the Brother MFY was the kind of person, I don't think would ever use the tawse.
47. The boys were not allowed to smoke although I knew kids were smoking. I caught one boy smoking and I told him to go to see Brother MFY and to tell Brother MFY I sent him there. I never heard anything about it. I thought Brother MFY would deal with it. I met the boy's parents and found out that the parents allowed the boy to smoke. I told them the school rule was that you were not allowed to smoke and that, when the boys weren't at school, was no business of mine. I told the parents I had to send the boy to Brother MFY. The parents told me Brother MFY had said it's okay to smoke, as long as Brother MJZ doesn't catch you. I was really angry.
48. I was not involved in the discipline of any of the children, except one, on my first or second day teaching at the school. was his name. He never wore school uniform. His parents didn't have money to buy the uniform but he came in wearing expensive shirts. I asked one of the Brothers, who said he came from a poor family and came free to the school. I had on the board and came in late. walked to his seat. I turned round and said to him the usual thing, if you come in late, then you report to the teacher. I asked why he didn't have his school uniform on? There was dead silence.
49. The young man came right up to me and said, "What are you going to do about it?" In front of the class, he put his face right next to mine. He was so close, he was almost kissing me. He was ready to head butt me. Before he could head butt me, I hit him on the face once, with an open hand. It was a reaction. It was the first time I had ever hit a child in the face. I never hit or any child, on the face again.

50. I said to [REDACTED] to go back to his place. That was it. I knew it was wrong to hit him. I thought, if I didn't do that at the time, the kids were all watching to see if I was going to give in to this. I never had any trouble from [REDACTED] after that. The kids knew, you don't play around with this man.
51. [REDACTED] reported me to Brother MFY [REDACTED]. He had every right to report me. I had no right to strike a child but I wasn't going to let [REDACTED] tell me what to do. I can't remember what happened with Brother MFY [REDACTED]. I regret that I hit [REDACTED] and I'm sorry that I hit him but I don't lose sleep over it.
52. I got the boys in the dormitory to pick four or five boys as Prefects for the dormitory. I told the Prefects what I expected of them. I didn't want to see dirt around the dormitory, the beds were to be properly made, the dormitory was to left in a respectable condition, as if they were at home. They didn't expect their mother to be doing things for them, they were old enough to keep the dormitory clean and tidy.
53. I was quite happy, in the end they were very good. The Prefects looked after the section where their bed was. They were in charge of the section and made sure the other boys made their beds and kept things tidy. If I was happy, at the end of the term, I had a special treat for the Prefects, cakes and whatnot, to show I appreciated their work and they'd earned a treat.
54. I used to play the piano in the hall and, as I passed a classroom, I looked in and I saw the tawse. It was rolled up in the corner, on a chair. It was holiday time. The kids weren't at school. The tawse didn't have a buckle. I asked a Brother what it was and what you did with it. I don't know the Brother's name. The Brother said, that's what the kids got, it was known as the strap. He said it wasn't used anymore. I asked why was it there and he said, it was like everything else, you don't use it, you don't bother with it. I was brought up with the cane in Fiji. I never had occasion to use the strap at St Joseph's.
55. I didn't see other Brothers discipline children. I wasn't told what means I could use to discipline the children. I wasn't told anything. I was thrown in and you either sank or

swam. I suppose I would have been told if I had been going to teach at school, permanently.

Leaving St Joseph's College

56. Brother Arthur was the Provincial. There were so many Brothers coming in and out, I think Brother Arthur was the head man. He was one of the nicest men I ever came across. I think he opened the school at Largs. Brother Arthur knew I liked teaching and that I couldn't teach at St Joseph's. The job was getting me down. I always wanted to do something with the kids. He arranged for me to go the Marist Brothers, St Columba's private school in Largs. In one way, I was sorry to go. I had got to know the kids in the dormitory and had become friends with them. I had the boy's respect and I respected them. I left St Joseph's in around 1977.

St Columba's College, Largs

57. Brother Arthur drove me down to Largs when I first moved there, in around 1977. I stayed at St Columba's for two years, until around 1979. The Brothers there were all retired Brothers. Brothers retired at 65 years old. They were going crazy because they had nothing to do. That is why the Brothers opened Largs. They had to give the retired Brothers something to do. This way, they could continue teaching. The parents were very happy as many of them worked abroad. I think St Columba's had been open for some time before I went there.
58. The school was a boarding school. It was just like a house, a family home, it was never built to be a school. There were boarders and day pupils. The pupils were aged from eight years to fourteen years. Boys came from Greenock and other places. There were no more than thirty children at the school.
59. My room was right at the top of the house. Below was the dormitory for about six or eight boys. There was also another room.

Structure of St Columba's College

60. Brother [REDACTED] Brother [MLA [REDACTED]], was [SNR [REDACTED]]. Brother [MLA [REDACTED]] [MLA [REDACTED]] was there for six years before he was moved. Myself and two other Brothers taught. The rest were retired, old brothers. There were about seven or eight of them. They were not involved in the teaching. There were three classes.
61. Brother [CIPHER [REDACTED]] he was the [SNR [REDACTED]] there and he was [SNR [REDACTED]] [SNR [REDACTED]] [SNR [REDACTED]]. He also taught in the school. [CIPHER [REDACTED]] had nothing to do with the running of the boarding house though. I can't remember the other Brothers names. It was their section, I hardly ever went there. I never met them at meals. I must have had my meals with the kids.
62. Brother Germanus didn't teach. He was the Director of the house, in charge of the whole community, the running of the house. Brother Germanus was my superior but he had nothing to do with the school. Brother Germanus had a stutter. Brother Germanus was a tailor. We had lay staff, a cook and a lady who cleaned up. Brother Germanus was in charge of them.
63. There was an English Brother looking after the children. I think his name was Brother Robert. He was very young. I often saw him crying. I spoke to one of the other Brothers, I can't remember his name, and asked what was wrong with Brother Robert. There was a kid in his classroom that was giving him a hell of a time, making him actually cry. The Brother I spoke to said the kid was, "that little devil [REDACTED]". When the Brother told me who the kid was, I said I didn't believe it, the kid was like an angel when he was with me. I thought somebody better do something about it.
64. If something was going on that I wasn't happy about, I could report it to [REDACTED] [SNR [REDACTED]] Brother [CIPHER [REDACTED]]. In the case of Brother Robert, we reported it to Brother Germanus because it was after school hours. Nothing happened to [REDACTED] for behaving that way. [REDACTED] behaviour didn't stop.

65. I called [REDACTED] up once and asked him why he did that to Brother Robert. [REDACTED] said he couldn't help it. It was victory for [REDACTED] that he could make this Brother cry and he used to do it every day. I think I gave [REDACTED] a whack, a hit with a cane, three strokes on one hand and three on the other. I think there was a cane in the classroom when I went to St Columba's. I said he had to respect Brother Robert and, if he knew Brother Robert had a weakness, you don't dwell on that weakness. I told [REDACTED] he was giving a bad example to the others in his class. He wasn't in my class. Eventually Brother Robert was posted somewhere else.
66. [REDACTED] had left school and, one weekend, I was at the [REDACTED] family home, when [REDACTED] came up to see me. I said to him I thought he'd be the last person to want to come and say hello to me. [REDACTED] said he was terrible, the things he used to do. I didn't hold it against him. I told him that I couldn't get over him being a little devil. He said that he knew he had been.
67. Once, I said to a Brother that I saw something that was very unbecoming. I saw a Brother, giving a kid a piggyback coming along the main street. I can't remember his name. It might have been Jim or James. The Brother was English. He was in his thirties, although I could be wrong. He was about five foot six inches tall. He wore glasses and was thick set. I think he had the top class. I said it wasn't done. The Brother said to me the rule was, because I saw something and disagreed with it, you shouldn't immediately think the worst. There must be some reason. Sure enough I found out the Brother had reason, the kid had done something to his ankle, he couldn't walk and there was no bus.
68. After a week, I saw this was still happening. I said to the Brother I had first spoken to, that he'd better have a word with the Brother giving the piggyback, and tell him that was not appropriate. Maybe I had a word with the Brother giving the piggyback, I can't remember. It didn't happen again. The Brothers didn't meet up to discuss the children. This was the only time I questioned a Brother. I thought it was wrong. Apart from that, there was nothing to discuss.

69. If there were meetings, the Brothers probably had them by themselves. I couldn't understand what they were saying. They were all Scot's Brothers. They spoke with a Scottish accent. Straight after dinner, the Brothers would have Community Recreation in the staff room. There would be four or five of the old Brothers. In the evenings, sometimes I'd go in the staff room, say it was a Feast Day. You'd have a glass of something.
70. The Brothers who had to look after the kids should have been doing that and not going into the staff room.

My Role at St Columba's College

71. My role was unusual for me. I had never dealt with little kids. One or two were babies, almost. I'd say the kids were aged eight years upwards but some were very small. I had seven boys in my class, for every subject. Four of those were day boys. They were the very young ones.
72. I had the kids all day and all night. I could teach at St Columba's because it was a private school, not government aided like St Joseph's. On Sunday, I had to cook for the kids. On Saturday, it was my job to look after them. I supervised them, kept them busy and gave them little jobs. It was the worst time of my life. I never had a minute to myself. The kids always had the knack of doing the opposite of what I said.
73. I got to know the boys quite well. The nicest period of my life was teaching these little kids. The feeling you had was that it was a privilege to be a Marist Brother, to teach these kids. You were like a father or mother to them. When I arrived at St Columba's, I wasn't given any information about the children or any instructions about discipline of the children. I didn't have to record discipline anywhere. I didn't have to keep records about the children. There was a roll call. There was nothing worth recording, it was boring after a while.

74. The parents picked the boys up each term. They looked at the boys exercise books. I would speak to the parents. The parents would be happy with that.

Children at St Columba's College

75. There was a boy who lived [REDACTED] who attended school. He was knee-high to a grasshopper. The teachers at the state school couldn't handle him so he was sent to St Columba's. I rather liked him. He was still a baby in one way and a boy in another. I'd say, [REDACTED] "you're in trouble." He would say, "How?" I used to laugh. Sometimes I'd say that just to hear him. I used to love hearing his excuse. He turned out to be a nice kid.
76. [REDACTED] was the first kid I saw who broke my heart. I felt so sorry for him. He drew out my paternal feelings. The kids came back after the Christmas holiday. I saw this little boy with [REDACTED] He looked as if he was only six years old. You could see the tears. The other kids were happy. This kid was left on his own. I asked him, did his mummy not come with him? The tears started. I asked one of the boys to look after him. Someone told me his father had died. His mother looked after [REDACTED] so she couldn't come.
77. One time, [REDACTED] was howling and he couldn't eat at night-time. One of the boys came and knocked at my door. He said [REDACTED] was crying. I went to him. I felt so sorry. I asked if he'd like some ice-cream. Then I thought, where was I going to get the ice-cream from? I gave him some ice-cream and he was still crying. Then he vomited all over the bed. I just wanted to pick him up and take him in my arms, do what a father would do with his son. That was my first instinct. It was so painful to see this kid. He was so small and tiny. It's the paternal instinct in you. I sat beside him, he was in his bed, in the dormitory, until he fell asleep. I would never have taken [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to my room. That was the written rule in the Marist rule book. [REDACTED] missed his mother so badly. I would check on him and would ask him if he was happy.

Routine at St Columba's College

Mornings and bedtime

78. I'm not sure if I got the boys up in the morning. I'm sure there would be a bell ringing. They got up at 7:30 am. I would be supervising the boys getting out of bed and having a wash. I'm not sure if I supervised just the boys in my class or others too. The children had breakfast together in a special hall. Brother Germanus ate with them. I ate with the Brothers.
79. There was one occasion I opened my door and there was a mattress. I supposed some kid had wet the mattress. That was the only time. I wasn't surprised. Some of the kids were so small. I didn't do anything with it, that wasn't my job. With the Marist Brothers, if it's not your job, you don't interfere. If you do interfere, it can be looked upon as you telling the Brother whose job it is, he's not doing his job well.

Leisure time

80. After school was the worst time. You had to keep the boys busy. There was recreation for them, a game of football or something else. You had to think of something new. If you gave the kids the same thing every day, they'd go crazy. It was completely different after school was over. Then, we were just one big group of friends. The boys all came together. Sometimes Brother Germanus would help out. There was a big area and kids would scatter. Brother Germanus would take boys for games. I used to mow the lawn. The boys loved to get in the way.
81. If we went swimming, I didn't dare get in with the boys. I kept an eye on them, in case they needed help.
82. At the weekends, the boys who could, went home or to relatives. There were maybe two or three who couldn't go and therefore stayed at the school. I had a barbeque for the boys. I cooked them this and that. Brother Germanus said I had to stop what I was

doing. Nobody wanted to go home for the weekend. They were having a wonderful time.

83. I said to one of the boys, whose surname was [REDACTED] that it was his turn to choose what he wanted to eat and what would he like. The boy wanted a doughnut. I made a jam sandwich and a batter, dipped the sandwich in the batter and deep fried it. It comes out nice and round with the jam inside. The kids looked forward to the weekends. They loved having me around. I used to feel sorry for them.

General Routine

84. The children went to school at 8:30 am. The teaching day was a full day. There was a break at lunchtime. There was an hours recreation, then school until 3:30 pm.
85. The boys only went to church on Sundays. We all went together to Largs church.
86. The children did not have any chores, that's why we had the cleaners, two ladies. One lady did the washing of the clothing. The other one did the cleaning. On a Saturday and Sunday, after the meals, the kids had to do the washing up. I'd tell the juniors to go and the seniors would clean up. The juniors would be happy. I'd change it the next time.
87. The children didn't wear a uniform.
88. At birthdays, maybe the cook would make the boys a cake. I can't remember. At Christmas, the boys never stayed at school. They went home. I told the children they could write to Father Christmas, I would post the letters and make sure Father Christmas got them. [REDACTED] said to me that he would like a pound to buy his mother something for Christmas. I said I was sure Father Christmas would give him a pound. I put a pound note in an envelope I had got from Fiji, put [REDACTED] name on it and put it on his locker the morning before the boys went home for Christmas. He was running to come to tell me, and the look on his face, it was so nice to see. The other boys asked if I was Father Christmas when they saw the Fijian stamps.

Visits / Inspections

89. I wasn't aware of any inspections. I don't think the government would come to a private school. In the other Marist schools, the Brother Provincial would come and go to each classroom. The Brother Provincial might have come but I can't recall. Brother Arthur was the Provincial Superior. He would have inspected on behalf of the Marist Brothers. Brother Arthur moved around. He wasn't stationed at St Columba's. He went from St Columba's to schools in Glasgow and London. Inspections of the accommodation, where the boys slept, that was Brother Germanus. He was in charge of everything.
90. Parents visited the children. If the kid's family couldn't come to visit, friends would come and visit them. Now and again you'd see a couple and some children. You'd know somebody had a visitor. I didn't arrange visits, I suppose they would ring Brother Germanus. I wasn't told when someone was coming to visit. It was a family affair. You didn't know they were coming, it was a surprise visit. Maybe the other Brothers knew about it.
91. Visitors would come into my class. One day I went into my classroom and I found a lady in there. She was going through all the exercise books. Her son was in my class. She wanted to see what the kid was learning. The lady wanted to ask me why the kid didn't come first all the time.
92. I remember one Sunday, a group of Brothers came down from Glasgow to visit Largs for the day.

Healthcare

93. Apart from [REDACTED] who was missing his mother, I never saw anyone else sick.
94. There were never any deaths amongst the children at the school.

Discipline

95. Discipline was no problem at all. They were nice kids. If you're going to punish a child, as long as he knows what it's for, he won't hold it against you. If you whack a kid and he doesn't know what he's getting it for, then he holds that against you. A whack would be hitting with a cane or a ruler, on the hand. One or two boys said, "Thank you Brother," when you did that. They weren't expected to.
96. I always asked the Lord to forgive me if sometimes I've gone over the score. Going over the score would be hitting harder than you normally would. Like with the kid [REDACTED] I couldn't believe a kid could be so cruel. Being human, sometimes you hit harder than you should. I always say, better to give him one well hard one than to give him six. I could be wrong.
97. I don't recall the strap being used at St Columba's. I may have used a slipper. What I get quite hurt about, when you disciplined a kid, people get the idea that you walloped the life out of them. It was nothing like that. There were maybe one or two occasions when the kid has been doing the thing repeatedly, I had to give them harder, with this ruler I had. I would hit on the hand.
98. Across the road from the school was the beach. I would take the boys in my group, out on a Sunday, swimming. I would say to the boys not to cross the road until I told them they could. I would be busy with something. By the time I looked, the kids were all over at the beach. It used to make me angry because of the cars going up and down, what if something happened to them? The kids were typical little kids. They were little angels but sometimes they could be little devils. They would wilfully do the opposite thing from what you tell them.
99. There was a kid called [REDACTED] He always did the opposite of what I told him to do. I gave him three on each hand, I forget what I used. He had a big smile on his face, I asked him, what was I to do with him? I liked him. He was a real boy, mischievous. He would do anything to get away with and then give you a wonderful smile, even after you had given him a smack. By smack, I mean I would give them a

smack on their backside as they walked past. He would say, "Thank you, Brother." On one occasion, I told him to be where I could see him. He was not to go into the sea. By the time I got there, all the kids were swimming in the sea.

100. I had a cane or a slipper. I made it my business, when a kid was wrong. These little kids, you can tell them and then in half an hour they will have forgotten what you told them to do. I said to the kids, you know what you're going to get, your Christmas present. I asked if they deserved what they were going to get and if they thought they shouldn't get it. I said if they convinced me that they shouldn't get a smack, they wouldn't get a smack. The kid would put his hand out. He knew he couldn't convince me. On a couple of occasions, boys proved to me that they didn't deserve a whack. They didn't get a whack.

Leaving St Columba's College

101. In the early 1980' s, I can't remember the date, I got a letter from Brother John Ogilvy. He thanked me for the powerful work I had done. He said I deserved a holiday and to take four weeks off to go to New Zealand. I went to London with my sister. I was told it would take two weeks to get a visa to go to New Zealand. My sister asked me to tutor her two sons, while I was waiting for my visa. She paid me pocket money for it.
102. Word got back to St Joseph's that I had taken on a teaching position in London. When I came back to St Columba's, there was a letter waiting for me. The letter said because I'd taken a job in London, my presence was no longer required. I thought it was pretty rotten just to get a letter. I wrote to Brother Ogilvy and said the least he could do was to hear my side of the story.
103. I think there was something more to it than that. It was an excuse for Brother Ogilvy to get rid of me. The New Zealand Brothers were not happy with the fact I had joined the English Brothers. The New Zealand Brothers thought it was poaching. They had taken it to the Papal Court. The only way for the English Brothers to get out of it, was to get rid of me.

104. I was given my ticket to go back to New Zealand and that was it. The job I'd previously had was waiting for me. I didn't want to go back to the school and be the Master of Discipline. It was my chance to get out. That was the end of my time with the Marist Brothers. I went from Scotland to Switzerland, where I had a cousin. I look back and I see God's hand in it all.

Life after St Columba's College

105. In Switzerland, I was in charge of a travel agency. I then got a job working at the Danish Embassy. I did some tutoring for a colleague's son. I stayed in Switzerland for two months and then I returned to the United Kingdom and worked for British Telecom.

Allegations made to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry against me

Allegation made by MGQ

106. MGQ was a pupil at St Columba's when I taught there.

107. In his statement to the Inquiry, MGQ states:-

"Everything felt fast paced, we were up around 7:00 am, then up on the top floor for washing and the toilet. We then had breakfast, prayer room and school. I remember the last one out the washroom got a slap from Brother MJZ he was quite a handy man with his beatings, on your head or wherever."

108. I was never around supervising the children washing in the morning. That would be Brother Germanus. We didn't have a prayer room. I remember MGQ He once told me he was going to be a week late coming home from the holiday because he was going with his parents to visit the German wall. He said he'd been to the Chinese one. It was marvellous what he was telling me. It was so interesting. I thought

the kid should be a writer. His sister visited and she told me he hadn't left the country. When I went to St Columba's, ^{MGQ} [REDACTED] was one of the senior boys.

109. After a meal, probably I smacked the last one saying, "Come on slowcoach." I can't believe I was really smacking their backsides hard.

Allegation made by ^{MGH} [REDACTED]

110. I am told ^{MGH} [REDACTED] alleges the following, in his statement to the Inquiry :-

"Brother ^{MJZ} [REDACTED] was quite physically abusive as well. He was alright, but when he gave you a doing, he really gave you a doing. He would use his hands. We would get beaten up if we didn't make our beds properly."

111. The way ^{MGH} [REDACTED] is saying that, you'd get the impression I'd get a kid and really beat him up. I taught them how to make their bed. I asked ^{MGH} [REDACTED] had he made his bed? I checked and all he had done was pull the covers up. The bed wasn't made. I didn't think, at the time, that I was being that hard on the kids. I would have smacked him on the bottom, over his clothes, with the palm of my hand, once or twice. He had lied to me. I wouldn't have flogged him. I couldn't have.
112. I used to cook on a Sunday and look after the kids. After the evening meal, a group of four or five would remain to do the cleaning up while the others went to recreation. It was easy cleaning up. I had to hurry them up. ^{MGH} [REDACTED] was slow in cleaning up and would hardly do a thing. He was keeping the others waiting. I warned him the first time.
113. Then I brought in 'last man out'. After you had finished cleaning, the slowest boy who hasn't been doing his work well, would be last out of the kitchen. I would be there with a ruler and give a whack on the backside. ^{MGH} [REDACTED] was last man out, so he got a whack on the backside. I thought that would teach him. It didn't. Each group came once a month. The next time, he thought I'd forgotten. He was still the same, slow and talking. I hadn't forgotten and that time I whacked him once. From then on, he was never last out. I accept I was physical with the boys.

Allegations made to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry about other Brothers

Allegations made by MGQ

Brothers at St Columba's

114. MGQ has made allegations about discipline in the school. It has been put to me that he alleges in his statement to the Inquiry:-

"There was discipline but it usually just depended on the Brother. We were usually just hit with whatever they had, usually belted. It would be a belt or a ruler across the hand. You didn't have to do much, it could just be for doing something in school. Sometimes you were lined up and hit just for swearing. It could be anything really."

115. Speaking for myself, only if the boys were all caught going across the road when they shouldn't have been and going to some place where there was danger or cars. After that time the boys had gone over the road, when they came back to the classroom, they would definitely be punished for doing something wrong. One of the things I did, they would have to forego their Sunday things that I would cook for them. If there was someone who was habitually wrong, I'd give them the ruler.
116. There weren't that many boys there to line up. I suppose if there were four of them, you couldn't hit the four, they'd come one after the other.
117. What other Brothers did in their classes, I wouldn't know. I never saw or heard another Brother discipline a child. At St Columba's, I wouldn't see any of the other Brothers. I was the only Brother in my classroom. Outwith school, Brother Germanus took the boys for different things. When he took them, I was up in my room. I was doing a degree course from Oxford. Any spare time, I was up in my room trying to study.

Brother Germanus

118. MGQ [REDACTED] has made allegations about Brother Germanus in his statement to the Inquiry. I am told the allegations are :-

"I jumped out of my bed and started running around the bedroom. I didn't know what was happening and I heard other boys shouting at me to get back into my bed. I did get back into my bed, then I heard another Brother shouting, "What have you done to this poor child?" I think that was Brother MJZ [REDACTED] but I can't be certain. I saw the boy come back in and I always remembered he'd shit himself and it was all down his leg. I don't know what had happened, if they'd been smacking him or what they'd done to that boy but it made him shit himself."

119. I don't remember anything like that. I can see the funny side of it and also, it's a frightening thing. If that had happened and a child had been in that state, I'd be saying more than, "What have you done?" I'd be so angry I'd phone the police and the Brother Provincial. I couldn't examine my conscience, the next morning I couldn't go to Mass or take communion as if nothing had happened. I was given my marching orders by the Marist Brothers. I could say I remember these allegations and just make it up but I don't.

120. I have been told that MGQ [REDACTED] says :-

"We would shower twice a week, Brother Germanus always seemed to supervise the showers, he would stand at the door telling you how to wash and, if you didn't do it right, he would come and help you. He would hold the towels and, if you were the last one out, which you didn't want to be, he would grab you and try to dry you."

121. I never saw anything like that. Most of the time, when I wasn't with the kids, I'd be up in my room.

122. I have been told that ^{MGQ} [REDACTED] alleges the following :-

"I was once last out the showers and Brother Germanus grabbed me on the back of my neck with one hand and started fumbling about with his clothing, inside his robes with the other hand. I was getting really scared so I started screaming, "Help, help, help." Then he put his hand over my mouth, really tight. I bit him so hard and he screamed out. Then, another Brother, I think it was Brother ^{MJZ} [REDACTED] appeared and told him to get off me and I just sprinted out of my bedroom."

123. I am asked whether I saw another Brother having physical contact with the boys. I never came across that at all. It's impossible. We didn't have four Brothers there anyway. If I had seen what has been described to me, I would have remembered that. That sort of thing, if I had witnessed that, I would definitely go right to the head Brother. I would be duty bound to report that.

124. I am told ^{MGQ} [REDACTED] says :-

"I went round the front and into Landour House to see what was going on."

125. Landour House was another part of the school.

126. I have been told that ^{MGQ} [REDACTED] alleges:-

"I came across Brother ^{MJZ} [REDACTED] screaming at Brother Germanus who was in his bedroom, the same room that Aldo had just come from. There was a boy who helped hold Aldo up and I went and helped hold Aldo up as well."

127. Impossible. Anyway, I wouldn't shout at Brother Germanus, I would call him quietly. When you speak to your superior, you don't shout and let the whole world know. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was in my class. I do not remember an incident involving a child called Aldo and Brother Germanus. Never, they were so well-behaved. [REDACTED] there was [REDACTED] at the school. I never came upon Aldo being assaulted by one of the Brothers.

128. I never saw a child being in a room with Brother Germanus on his own. Brother Germanus had his office, with a desk in it and with his bed in the same room. Naturally if there was anything to do to deal with a child, if he had to, then it would be in his office. The office door would never be closed if a child was in there.

129. I have been told that ^{MGQ} goes on to allege the following :-

"We were away that weekend and, when we came back, Aldo wasn't there. I asked Brother ^{MJZ} about him and I remember I was told Aldo hadn't been very well, that he had something wrong with his stomach and that he had died. I said it was because Brother Germanus had killed him but I got a telling off for saying that. We all knew Aldo had been killed by Germanus."

130. I don't believe it. If a kid had died in the school, that would be in the annals, the journals, of the school. ^{MGQ} didn't ask me about a child called Aldo.

131. I have been told that ^{MGQ} alleges :-

"I remember that just after Brother Germanus killed Aldo, which is why I came forward to the Inquiry, I was at the bottom of the stairs and I turned round to Brother ^{MJZ} I think it was, and told him I thought we were all going to die in there. He smiled and told me not to be silly and not to worry because Brother Arthur would sort it all out."

132. I don't remember anything like that. I do not remember Brother Germanus assaulting a kid. Never. I can't remember any kid being assaulted. never became unwell. If someone had died, there'd have to be a doctor's certificate. That would have to be on record.

133. I am asked whether I ever saw Brother Germanus with any of the children. I once saw Brother Germanus outside the kids shower room. That was the first time I'd seen the shower room where the kids went. Brother Germanus had to be there, that was his

job. I saw [REDACTED] in his red bathing trunks, cleaning the walls, in that shower room. There were five or six kids in the shower room with [REDACTED]

134. I asked [REDACTED] what he was doing. He said he was cleaning the shower room. I never thought anything of it. I thought the kids had been for a swim in the sea and had come back to have a shower. He was a sensible, nice kid, a loveable rogue. [REDACTED] was always willing to do any sort of work. That's the only time I saw him in his red trunks.

Allegations made by MGH [REDACTED]

135. I have been told that, in his statement to the Inquiry, MGH [REDACTED] alleges as follows :-

"Mostly I spent term-time at St Columba's and only went home in the holidays however Brother MJZ [REDACTED] used to take me home for breaks at weekends when he found out what was happening to me. Every year I cried and said I didn't want to go back to the school at the end of the holidays"

136. I don't remember ever taking MGH [REDACTED] home. I don't drive. When I was recently made aware of MGH [REDACTED] allegations, it was the first I knew of anything happening to him. I'm surprised his parents didn't know. I was never aware of any concerns about MGH [REDACTED]. The only concern I had was about the kids giving MGH [REDACTED] a rough time. The kids used to call him MGH [REDACTED]. It should be pronounced [REDACTED]. MGH [REDACTED] would put his soup bowl to his mouth and make a noise, that was why they called him that. I had to tell him to have his soup with a spoon. The kids wouldn't pick MGH [REDACTED] for their football team. I felt sorry for him. I coached him at football, to play on the wing. Then, the boys did pick MGH [REDACTED]. I went out of my way to be good to MGH [REDACTED]

137. I spent two weekends at MGH [REDACTED] parent's home. They invited me. MGH [REDACTED] father would come in his ice-cream van and take me to their house. MGH [REDACTED] parents were never there for the kids. They were working every night of the week. The first invitation to go

to their house came after a parent's barbeque at school. I made twenty or thirty loaves of garlic bread and it was the first time MGH parents had come across it. Each time I went to their house, I made curried lamb. When MGH talks of Brother MJZ being a great cook and making banana fritters, it is me that he is referring to. I don't remember any Brother called Brother [REDACTED].

138. It has been put to me that the suggestion is, MGH was being abused at St Columba's and I became aware of that. I was never aware of that.

Brother Germanus

139. I have been told that MGH alleges the following :-

"Brother Germanus was abusing me all of the time. On one evening he was abusing me in the bed and Brother MJZ came in and told him to stop. He carried me downstairs. He was quite a big, strong man. He sat me in the kitchen area and said, "I'll tell your mum and dad about this, don't worry about this." Germanus came down after him. The two of them were having a full-scale argument by the door. Germanus was smoking a pipe. Brother MJZ said, "You know you're not allowed to smoke your pipe inside the school. Go outside, you're just drunk, you've been drinking too much and leave MGH alone."

140. I'm trying to picture it but no, it never happened. When I was at St Columba's, Brother Germanus would have been nearly seventy years old. He had a pipe. If anything, Brother Germanus was a man who loved the children. He was more like a grandfather to them. I would have thought MGH would have told me what was happening to him. He never breathed a word. I was never aware of allegations of Brother Germanus abusing the children.

141. I have been told that MGH alleges the following :-

"I remember the most terrible thing happened. I was standing on the stairs. and MGQ were further up the stairs, creeping up as if they had guns on them. They were pretending to be the Professionals, C15. I was being the governor, although didn't know it. and MGQ told me that Aldo Moroni was in a room upstairs, being battered by Germanus. I didn't see that happen, but I could hear screaming and I saw Brother Germanus come out of the same room."

"As I stood down the stairs, I heard shouting. I'm sure Brother MJZ had to pull Brother Germanus off Aldo. I didn't see that happen, I just heard them shouting and bawling at each other. I remember a doctor, wearing a grey suit and carrying a doctor's bag, walking past me on the stairs. I remember seeing him walk back down the stairs to leave, shaking his head."

142. I don't remember that. and MGQ were always together. MGQ had two or four boys who he went around with. I'm wondering if MGH was of those boys.

143. I have been told that MGH further states:-

"When I was fourteen or fifteen my mum asked me to phone directory enquiries. I was looking for a number for her. The person who answered said, "Is your surname MGH He pronounced my name correctly, He asked if was speaking to MGH I told him he was and asked who I was speaking to. He said, "It's Brother MJZ. You can now call me because I've left the Brotherhood." My mum couldn't believe it.

144. I can't remember that but I know MGH mother would have known that I was working at . I had a call from MGH father who was rude to me. He thought I should have rung them when I started working for I tried to explain that I couldn't just pick up the phone and make private calls. I rang his wife and told her that her husband had been rude to me.

Brother CIPHER WIT

145. I am told that MGH has said the following :-

"Brother CIPHER WIT would come around the class with a metal ruler. If we made a mistake, he would hit us over the knuckles with the ruler. It was really really sore and we would burst into tears."

146. Brother CIPHER WIT was one of the retired Brothers when I was at St Joseph's. He was in his seventies. I never knew him to be at St Columba's.

Brothers at St Joseph's College against whom allegations have been made

147. There were many Brother's at St Joseph's. The fact that I wasn't teaching meant I didn't know all of them. I didn't dare mix with the teaching Brothers, I was just a member of the staff looking after the dormitory and not teaching. We only knew Brothers by their first name. We didn't know their surname.

148. The Brothers were always around children. In the playground, the Brothers went around supervising, so I would see them with children then. The Brothers were supposed to get to know the children, give them that confidence. It would be terrible if the children were in the classroom and after school, you didn't have anything to do with them. It was natural for the Brothers to be with children. After school, children would hang around you and ask you about this and that. I never saw Brothers with the same children hanging around. In the short time I was at St Joseph's, I never heard the word abuse.

149. I did question, from my way of thinking, the Brothers having too much familiarity, more than should have happened, like letting the children call them by their first names or treating children like friends. They get too friendly and have little cliques. I was only going on my experience from my part of the world. I can't remember the names of any particular Brothers who I thought that about.

Brother Damian - Thomas McCann

150. There was a Brother at St Joseph's called Brother Damian. One day, he passed me and said he saw I taught [REDACTED]. I said I did but I didn't teach for long at St Joseph's. That's the only time I spoke to Brother Damian. He seemed a very nice chap. I saw him in the playground with children, as I did with other Brothers. I did not see him discipline any children. I did not see him abuse any children. I did not hear of him abusing children. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollections about that. If I had seen any abuse of children, I would not forget that.

Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED]

151. I knew Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED]. He was the ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. He took over from another Brother who had finished his term. I didn't like him because of the way he dealt with the boy who I sent to him for smoking. Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED] said to the boy he could smoke but not to let me catch him. I was angry. This was the rule I was supposed to be keeping. Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED] was in his late forties, early fifties. [REDACTED] I heard, years after, that he became ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. By that time, I was in Largs.

152. I never heard anything contrary about Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED]. I did not see him with children, other than in the way I have described. I suppose as ^{SNR} [REDACTED], he would have to discipline children. I never saw him discipline any children. I did not see him abuse any children. That would be the last thing I'd expect of Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED]. I did not hear of him abusing children. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollections about that.

Brother ^{MMK} [REDACTED]

153. Brother ^{MMK} [REDACTED] was the ^{SNR} [REDACTED] before Brother ^{MFY} [REDACTED]. He had a very English accent. I never spoke to him other than to say hello. I did not see him with children, other than in the way I have described. I did not see Brother ^{MMK} [REDACTED] discipline any children. I did not see him abuse any children. I did not hear of him abusing children. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollections about that.

Brother MFT

154. There was an Old Boy's Reunion in December. The old boys would bring in refreshments, alcohol. I heard some children saying they wondered if Brother MFT would be carried out because he enjoyed the party so much. He was thin. The children called him MFT. I knew him to say hello to. I never had a conversation with him.
155. I did not see Brother MFT with children, other than in the way I have already described. I did not see him discipline any children. I did not see him abuse any children. I did not hear of him abusing children. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollections about that.

AKU

156. I saw AKU once. He was a young fella, about eighteen or nineteen. There were three young Brothers who came to St Joseph's at the same time. He was just out of the Noviciate. The first time I saw him, I looked twice because he had long hair. AKU was a disciplinarian. By that, I mean that some people walk into a place and command respect. That's what I saw in him. He was in the dining-room and was in charge for that meal. The kids didn't muck around. They stood up when he said to stand up. There were kids in the dining-room about the same age as him. I thought great times were ahead for the Order if we had young fellas coming up. He impressed me. I never saw him again.
157. I did not see AKU discipline any children. I did not see him abuse any children. I did not hear of him abusing children. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollections about that.

Brother CIPHER WITHDRAWN - DO NOT USE

158. Brother CIPHER WITHDRAWN was never a Brother that you'd want to get to know. He was rough. When I saw him, I thought of the villain in a cowboy film. Brother CIPHER WITHDRAWN was well

into his sixties. I never saw him laugh. I sat down to a meal with him on two occasions. He always had something to moan about. I was happy not to be invited to that group again. I thought he was a retired teacher. I don't know what his role was.

159. I didn't see Brother CIPHER WI with children. I would have thought, because of the effect he had on me, that the kids would run in the opposite direction rather than go to see him. I did not see him discipline any children. I did not see him abuse any children. I did not hear of him abusing children. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollections about that.

Brother MKA

160. I am asked if I know a Brother MKA. I think Brother MKA came at the same time as AKU. I did not know him.

Brother MYZ - MYZ and Brother CIPHER V - CIPHER WITHDR

161. I did not know Brother MYZ or Brother CIPHER.

AKV

162. Brother AKV rings a bell but I could not pin point who that was.

Brother's at St Columba's College against whom allegations have been made

Brother Germanus Paul - David McKell

163. I knew Brother Germanus. I thought he was a loveable chap. He had a stutter. He was well into his sixties. The children were always around him. I thought that was natural because he was always so helpful. It was Brother Germanus' job to look after and supervise the children. I never heard anyone speak ill of him. He was like a grandad to the children. I thought the kids loved him.

164. I did not see him discipline any children. I did not see him abuse any children. I did not hear of him abusing children. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollections about that.

Brother MLA

165. Brother MLA had just left St Columba's when I went to Largs. I don't know where he was transferred to or why. I think he had been SNR the college, as the SNR SNR. We called the SNR. Brother MLA was the [REDACTED] Brother [REDACTED] who was also in Largs at that time. Brother [REDACTED] introduced me to Brother MLA when I was there for a week on a visit. The children were happy in his company. You can always tell when children are happy in somebody's company.

166. Brother MLA was good with the children. He didn't have to repeat himself. If Brother MLA told the children not to do something, they didn't. In a place like Largs, which was small, you saw Brother MLA with children in his company, mostly playing cricket with the children. I didn't have a conversation with him because he spoke too quickly. The children weren't happy when Brother MLA left. They missed him, he was always in the thick of things at sporting events.

167. I did not see him discipline any children. I don't think he had to, he commanded respect. I did not see him abuse any children. I did not hear of him abusing children. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollections about that.

Brother CIPHER WITHDRAWN - [REDACTED]

168. Brother CIPHER was the SNR of the school. He had one of the classes too. He was nearly seventy. I could never understand a word of what he said, so I was never encouraged to go to him for help. He would talk about the various schools he had been in. I thought he must be a very successful man. He should have been retired but instead was SNR of the school. He liked to drink. In one way, I envied those

Brothers, they could drink away and not be affected. Alcohol was their tonic. At the end of the year he put on a concert. He was a very capable man. Brother **CIPHE** got on well with the kids.

169. I did not see him discipline any children. I did not see him abuse any children. I did not hear of him abusing children. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollections about that.

Help the Inquiry

170. If these things had been happening at St Joseph's and St Columba's, wouldn't the parents hear about it? Kids talk about these things. Somebody should have come and asked the Brothers about it, if anything was going on.
171. When I hear now what **MGQ** and **MGH** say, I'm feeling guilty. My guilt is two-fold. I'm thinking, I must have hit them hard and it's an admission of guilt, you've failed if you're using physical punishment. When you're an adult, maybe you don't realise you're being heavy-handed.
172. Children who are having problems should be able to telephone to speak to someone, there should be a dedicated number they can ring for help.
173. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed **MJZ**

Dated *1st Oct. 2019.*